

REMARKS

By an Office Action dated April 8, 2004 in the file of the above-identified patent application the Examiner has objected to the specification and claims of this application based on format grounds also objected to the claims based on prior art. By this submission, reconsideration of the merits of the patent application is respectfully requested.

First, the applicants have submitted herewith new drawings to satisfy that object by the Examiner.

Secondly, the applicants have amended the specification in each of the instances pointed out by the Examiner to correct the verbiage. It is believed that these changes are all made in accordance with the Examiner's requests and should satisfy these concerns.

The Examiner also objected to the claims based on similar wording usage. The applicants have corrected the usage so as to refer to "database" as a single word in order to satisfy these concerns.

Lastly, the Examiner rejected the claims of this application based on prior art, principally a reference to Ogawa with or without an additional reference to Wakai. Based on the comments made herein and the changes to the claims made above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to revisit that objection.

First and foremost, the system of Ogawa does not send faxes from users on a network out to users who are on another system. The system from Ogawa is intended to receive faxes from an external system and then try to parse the faxes and determine from them which individual within the system those faxes should be sent to. The objective of the system of Ogawa is a much simpler and more straightforward process than that described by the applicants here. To make clear the difference, and to emphasize it further, the applicants have amended Claim 1, and includes similar limitations in new Claim 10, to make it clear that what is envisioned by the system described here is sending a document from a user using a network or computer system to an external person in the world outside of the network. That is what the system of the present invention is intended to accomplish, and it is exactly the reverse of what Ogawa is attempting to perform.

When a document is coming into a network or company, the problem of figuring out which individual person the fax is for is a limited problem. Presumably the company know who works for it and that information can be found in the computer network of the company. Note that when one sends a document to the outside world from a company's network, the network does not necessarily know the person to whom the document is supposed to go. In other words, the problem of getting the document to the intended recipient is an open ended

problem rather than a closed one. The system described here identifies the intended recipient of the document or the telephone number to which a facsimile transmission is supposed to be sent, even though that information may or may not be then known by the system. It is envisioned here that the system maintains a database of users for whom it knows the facsimile telephone number and the system maintains an association between that number and a given name. In addition, the system is capable of examining a document to determine if a destination recipient address, such as a facsimile telephone number, is contained within the document. Based on that intelligent parsing of the document the system can either recognize a recipient address, such as a telephone number, and send the document by facsimile directly to that number or if a telephone number is not found, can find a recipient name and then look up the name in the database to see if the telephone number is contained therein. Thus either of these procedures may be used to ensure that the facsimile is sent to its correct recipient address, a telephone number is associated with the recipient individual person.

None of this is shown in Ogawa. Ogawa does not show sending a facsimile outside of a system to a user in which either the recipient or the user is identified from documents parsed from within the document itself. The system of Ogawa does not include looking up in a database the destination telephone number for the fax, using just the recipient's name. Thus Ogawa does not either anticipate or make obvious the claims of the present invention since it does not envision that a system performing the function of the system of the applicants here could even exist.

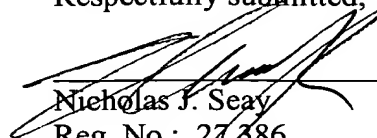
There are clear method limitations recited in the claims of this application that are not found in Ogawa. These limitations include looking in the document to find a destination telephone number to fax the document to and, if there is a name and not a telephone number, looking in a database to find the telephone number that way. Those limitations function to achieve a result not obtainable by the system of Ogawa, i.e. enabling a network to send faxes to the outside world with minimal human input. Accordingly, these method claims describe patentable subject matter over the references cited by the Examiner.

Based on this submission reconsideration of the merits of this patent application is respectfully requested.

A petition for an extension of time for two months accompanies this response so the response will be deemed to have been timely filed. Should any additional extension of time be due, please consider this to be a request for the appropriate extension of time and a request to charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 17-0055. No other fee is believed due, but

should any other fee be due, please consider this to be a request to charge the fee to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas J. Seay", is written over a horizontal line.

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